


Northern Great Plains National Parks – Fire Management Standard Operating Procedures		Section: Fire Apparatus	Revised: 7/12/99	Number: 101.00
	Subject: Declaring a Vehicle Unsafe to Operate			Page: 1 of 2
I. Scope: This standard applies to fire apparatus and support vehicles owned or operated by Fire Management.				
II. Purpose: This standard was promulgated to:				
A. Ensure that fire apparatus and other motorized vehicles are safe to operate by identifying major defects that would render a vehicle unsafe to operate, and				
B. Establish a procedure for placing an unsafe vehicle out of service.				
III. Procedure for Placing a Vehicle out of Service:				
A. The Operator of any apparatus or motorized vehicle shall have the authority to place the apparatus or vehicle out of service whenever one or more of the following defects are discovered:				
1. A failure of the braking system that results in the vehicle being difficult or impossible to stop.				
2. A failure of the windshield wipers during inclement weather. Note: On a sunny day, the failure of the wipers would not be a justifiable reason to remove the vehicle from service.				
3. A failure of the headlights, brake lights or tail lights to operate during a period of darkness.				
4. One or more flat tires.				
5. The inability to engage or operate a fire pump.				
6. A failure of the power steering system.				
7. A failure of the coolant system causing the engine to overheat.				
8. Battery, alternator or electrical system failure that prevents the vehicle from being started or results in a discharge of the electrical system.				
9. Failure of the mobile two-way radio if a portable is not available to replace the mobile radio.				
10. Any defect that, if not immediately corrected, would endanger the lives of the general public and/or the personnel assigned to the vehicle.				
B. Whenever a defect is discovered in an apparatus or vehicle that routinely responds to emergency incidents that would require that the apparatus or vehicle be placed out of service, the person responsible for the apparatus or vehicle shall notify the Fire Coordinator that the apparatus or vehicle is out of service.				
C. The Operator or Engine Captain shall be responsible for arranging to have the repairs made that will return the apparatus or vehicle to service. The park fire coordinator shall be notified about the defects in order for the repair work to be scheduled..				
D. Whenever an apparatus or vehicle is placed out of service a “Red Tag Out of Service Card” shall be taped on the inside of the windshield in such a manner that it obstructs the driver’s normal range of vision.				
IV. Items That Require Repair but do not Justify Placing a Vehicle out of Service:				
A. Any defect will need to be repaired as soon as possible. Most defects do not necessitate placing an apparatus or vehicle out of service, even though the defect may be annoying or hamper normal operations.				
B. Most notable would be the failure of one or more audio or visual warning devices. The failure of any one of these would not cause the vehicle to be placed out of service. The failure of all of the audio warning devices and/or the warning lights would prevent the unit from running emergency traffic, but would not require that the unit be placed out of service.				

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V. Responsibilities:

A. It is everyone’s responsibility to ensure that the vehicle or apparatus to which they have been assigned is safe to operate. Whenever any defect is discovered, it shall be reported in accordance with park policies and shall be repaired as soon as it is possible to do so.

B. The burden of determining whether or not a vehicle is safe to operate shall rest primarily with the assigned driver of the vehicle. The driver has the primary responsibility for maintaining the vehicle and is the one crew member most familiar with the operational characteristics of the vehicle.

C. The Engine Captain or Engine Boss is responsible for reviewing all of the daily checklists and repair requests to monitor the overall status and condition of the fleet. He or she shall also be responsible for confirming that all regularly scheduled maintenance is performed and coordinating all off-site maintenance and repair work.